

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A hinge apparatus of a drum for a clothing ~~drier~~~~dryer~~ comprising:

a front hinge portion formed between a front of a case and a front of a drum, and for rotatably supporting the front of the drum; and

a rear hinge portion installed between a rear of the case and a rear of the drum, and for supporting so that the rear of the drum swings in vertical and horizontal directions.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rear hinge portion comprises:

a housing fixed at the center of the rear of the drum;

a ball bearing inserted at the housing, and swinging in vertical and horizontal directions;

and

a shaft connected with the ball bearing, and fixed at the rear of the case.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the housing consists of a first housing and a second housing which are fixed at the rear of the case, and when the first housing and the second housing are assembled, a spherical groove in which the ball bearing is swingably inserted is formed.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, the first housing comprises:

a first engaging portion having a bolt hole fixed at the rear surface of the case drum and a bolt engaging hole bolt-engaged with the second housing, said bolt hole and the bolt engaging hole being formed in a circumferential direction; and

a first hinge portion integrally formed at the center of the first engaging portion, and having a hemispherical groove in which the ball bearing is inserted.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the second housing comprises:

a second engaging portion having a plurality of bolt holes which is bolt-engaged with the first engaging portion; and

a second hinge portion having a hemispherical groove in which the ball bearing is inserted, and a penetrating hole through which the shaft passes.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein one end of the shaft is fixed at the ball bearing, and the other end of the shaft has a spiral formed portion so as to be bolt-engaged with the case.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein a base nut which is screw-engaged with the shaft is provided at an inner surface of the case.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the base nut has a disc shape installed at a nut-installed portion formed at the case, and a plurality of engaging protrusions is formed at a certain interval therebetween in a circumferential direction of the base nut.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein a reinforcing member for reinforcing stiffness of the case when the shaft is engaged therewith is mounted at an outer surface of the case.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein a stopping pin is formed at the reinforcing member, is inserted in the an insertion groove formed at the case, and is protruded to the nut installed portion, so that the stopping pin stops the a stopping protrusion.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the reinforcing member is fixed to the case by a weld ~~welding~~ or a rivet ~~riveting~~.